

# Newport History

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# NEWPORT HISTORY

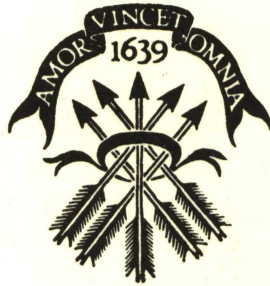
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**COVER:** The garden of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Emmons,  
300 Gibbs Avenue, about 1935.  
*From the collection of Judge Arthur J. Sullivan.*

# NEWPORT HISTORY

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**CHARLES PETER BEAUCHAMP JEFFERYS**  
**1898-1980**

C. P. Beauchamp Jefferys, better known to many of us as “Cham”, died at the Newport Hospital on 18 February, 1980 after a period of ill health. This brought to a close a long vigorous life devoted to service to youth as a beloved teacher at St. George’s School, to the community as a leader in many activities and to this society as wise mentor and president for many years. A simple but moving memorial service was held in the chapel at St. George’s School on 23 February which was attended by a large number of his friends and associates.

Born in Doylestown, Pennsylvania, the son of the Reverend Edward M. and Amy Elizabeth Faulconer Jefferys, he attended St. Paul’s School in Concord, N. H., the University of Pennsylvania, and Columbia University where he received a master’s degree. In 1932 he married Anne Izard Shaw of Morristown, N. J. They had two children; Mrs. Elizabeth Jefferys Dees of Newport

and Peter Jefferys of London, England, and five grandchildren. Anne Jefferys died in 1968.

Mr. Jefferys began his teaching career at St. Paul's School in 1922 in the field of history. In 1930 at the urging of his good friend, J. Vaughan Merrick III, then headmaster at St. George's, he joined the faculty of that school as a member of the history department. In 1945 he became head of the department and remained in that capacity until his retirement in 1963. In that year his qualities as a teacher and scholar were recognized by Princeton University by the bestowal of the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws.

His association with the Historical Society began in 1933. He was elected to the board of directors in 1944 and served continuously until elected president in 1965 succeeding Sydney L. Wright. On his retirement as president in 1972 he was reelected to the board on which he continued to serve until his death. Before his illness the Society was one of the major interests in Cham's life; one which probably gave him more pleasure than any of the other activities he undertook after retiring from teaching. In addition to playing a major role in the formulation of policy and in the financial well-being of the Society, he was deeply involved in its quarterly bulletin, *NEWPORT HISTORY*, to which he not only contributed numerous articles but also provided scholarly and editorial oversight. By virtue of his own talents and concerns he carried on and reinforced his predecessor's wish that the publication should represent a high standard of historical accuracy as well as interest to the reader. His crowning achievement along these lines was, of course, his authorship of the book *NEWPORT 1639-1976 — An Historical Sketch*, a project which he undertook on behalf of the Society to commemorate the Bicentennial Year. This condensed history, primarily aimed at the general reader who wants to learn more about our city than can be gleaned from guide books, has been in steady demand and a second printing is planned.

As we have intimated, Cham was involved in many other community affairs, too numerous to be listed here in their entirety. Let us content ourselves in noting that he was chairman of the Middletown Civilian Defense Council during World War II and a member of the Middletown School Committee from 1948 to 1951. He served on the boards of Redwood Library, the League of



Rhode Island Historical Societies, the Trustees of Long Wharf and Public School and the Preservation Society of Newport County. He was a long-time president of Quindecim. It is well to remember that with all these civic pursuits he also found time, as a keen sailor, to serve as a member of the Ida Lewis Yacht Club's Race Committee.

The Newport Historical Society has many reasons to be grateful to Cham for his unwavering friendship and support over the years, his wise counsel, his scholarly attainments and above all, for his firm but tactful leadership during a period in which the Society made great progress in increasing its membership, in strengthening its programs and in reaching a sound fiscal base. Although we have lost a true friend, this progress, which still goes on, is his legacy to us.

AVE ATQUE VALE

## NEW MEMBERS

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Dr. G. Brian Sullivan	Active
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White Horse Tavern	Business

## NEW CORPORATE MEMBER

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*We note with regret the death of:*

Mrs. Charles B. Gray  
Wesley T. Hammer  
C. P. B. Jefferys  
Kenneth L. Peterson  
Helen M. Rives  
Mrs. J. Sydney Stillman

## THE NEWPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Newport Historical Society has maintained a library and museum of Newport and Rhode Island history since its incorporation in 1854. Three centuries of political, business and family manuscripts, including the early records of the Town Council housed for the City of Newport, together with important holdings of maps, prints, photographs, newspapers and maritime memorabilia, are preserved by the Society as are furniture, silver, paintings and ceramics which give it a representative regional collection of the American decorative arts.

Incorporated into the Society's fireproof building is the 1729 Newport Seventh Day Baptist Church. In addition the Society owns the Wanton-Lyman-Hazard House (1675), the Friends Meeting House (1699), and Green End Fort.

*Hours:* The Society is open to the public

Tuesday through Friday 9:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

Saturday 9:30 A.M. to 12 Noon

Closed Sundays, Mondays, Holidays

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June 15 - Labor Day

Tuesday through Saturday 9:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

Sunday 1 P.M. to 5 P.M.

The Wanton-Lyman-Hazard House and the Friends Meeting House are open June 15th to Labor Day. Monday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

*Newport History* solicits original articles on any aspect of Newport County history. All submissions will be considered by the editorial committee for publication. Obtain information from the editor, Cynthia Menge, at Society headquarters.

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